

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL AGENDA
BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
August 8, 2017

The August 2017 meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2017, in the Council Room, Bethel Lutheran Church, VA.

The following Bethel Council members were in attendance:

Pastor David Young, Worship Board Chair
Tom Milburn, President
Bob Hollingsworth, Vice President
Rose Mangold Pierce, Secretary
Julie Shanabrook, Servant Board Chair
Adrian Pullen, Ministry Support Board Chair
Pat Blevins, Prayer and Care Board Chair
Dave Griffin, Congregational Life Board Chair

Devotion

Pat Blevins lead devotions focusing on new take on Mathew 10, where we are asked to take time to breath and relax and hear what God is telling you.

Call to Order

Tom Milburn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

New Business

1. Approval of April 2017 minutes

As there were no questions regarding June 2017 minutes, Tom Milburn called for a motion to approved June minutes with Bob Hollingsworth motioning first and Pastor Dave Young seconding and all were in favor. The June 2017 Council Minutes are approved.

Reports

1. Pastor's Report

Pastor Dave Young stated that he made in-home and hospital visits. He welcomed a family into Bethel's congregational family. He added that there are other families interested in becoming members here at Bethel this fall. He performed one memorial service.

Pastor Young stated that he is excited and preparing for the trip to Germany (August 19- Sepember 5) with other fellow members here at Bethel. Bethel members can follow along at www.bethelreformation500trip.blogspot.com)

Pastor Young updated Council on preparations for Bethel's Octoberfest (October 7-8) which is part of our 500th Reformation celebration which will be held October 7-8, 2017.

He added that the Preaching Team (Mike Stanfield, Michelle Young, Bruce Lothrop, Doug Newell) is doing well and he is planning a formal introduction and commissioning of the team on Sunday, October 18.

He stated his daily devotions which focus on 95 Days with 95 Theses via Twitter and Facebook is going well.

He stated that Pastor Terry Hannon from Orchard Ridge will hold Sunday Service while he is in Germany and be available should there be major emergencies.

The Church office will be covered for at least 2 days that week.

2. Treasurer's Report

Council was informed that the July Financial Report was not available for review at this meeting. Pastor Young and Tom Milburn stated that while we are still behind financially, all areas remain fully funded. Bethel has not had to delve into the Rainy-Day Fund and all bills are being met now. He further stated that summer attendance appears to be about the same as last year with about 200 each Sunday.

3. Youth & Family Ministry Report

There is no formal youth and ministry report this month as Brian Jaster has been very busy with the Summer Camps, Caroline Furnace Camp and Follow the Leader Camp which have all been a great success.

4. Board Reports

There were no board reports this month.

Congregation Feedback

All agreed that there were no Congregation Feedback issues to be discussed.

Old business

1. Abuse Prevention Guidelines

There was no specific update provided.

2. Heating System Update

There was no report this month.

3. Music Ministry Status

There was no report this month.

4. Sabbatical Policy Update

The Sabbatical Policy is approved and will be brought to the congregation at the November Congregational Meeting.

5. Sound System Update

Pastor Young stated that Dave Shoberg has come up with a plan to rearrange the back of the Sanctuary to accommodate the music console and provide better seating arrangements for our handicapped/wheelchair bound parishioners.

6. Forwarding Faith Update

This program is funded through the ECLA and Bethel, and will be discussed again at the September Council meeting.

7. Classical Cottage

Pastor Dave and Julie Shannabrook informed Council that the Classical Cottage contract with Bethel had been finalized, reviewed and accepted by and signed by Classical Cottage. Tom Milburn called for a motion to approved the contract with Adrian Pullen motioning first and Bob Hollingsworth seconding and all were in favor. Dave Griffin abstained from voting. The Classical Cottage Contract is approved and accepted. Julie Shannabrook will inform Classical Cottage. Classes will start here at Bethel on September 21, 2017, two days a week, Thursday and Friday.

Pastor Young requested Julie Shannabrook contact the leaders of Classical Cottage and ask them if they would attend the September 17 Service at which Pastor Young will introduce them to the Congregation. It has been noted that many parishioners do not know members of outside programs which are here at Bethel during the week and this is one way to help those program members as well as Bethel members become familiar with one another.

Pastor Young then opened discussion on having additional gravel placed around back to provide additional parking for those attending Classical Cottage. Adrian Pullen and Pastor Young will work on getting this done and provide an update at the September 2017 Council meeting.

8. Pastoral Health Insurance

Pastor Young opened discussion on the change to the Pastoral Health Insurance Plan informing Council that his current Health Plan has been phased out. He reviewed for Council the ECLA plan which provides for an 80% deductible, as well as a \$2,000 out of pocket expense before the 80% kicks in. He added that Dale Nichols was able to find a more affordable plan with a 100% deductible. While the out of pocket expense is at \$4,000, Pastor Young has agreed to pay \$2,000, with Bethel paying the other \$2,000. Doing this keeps the insurance costs less than the ECLA plan, and at the same time providing a 100% deductible. Additional discussion will take place to discern how to ensure Pastors have adequate health insurance coverage in the future.

Tom Milburn called for a motion to ratify the health insurance coverage plan with Adrian Pullen motioning first and _____ motioning second and all were in favor. The Health Insurance Coverage Plan is ratified.

9. Playground Update

Pastor Young and Julie Shannabrook stated that the playground rework will be finished by September 7, 2017. Tree removal and corner dig outs are the main things left to be done. Kim Williams is donating a new play structure for the kids.

New Business

1. November Congregational Meeting

Discussion opened with Pastor Young stating that our By-Laws mandates that the Congregational Meeting must take place on a specific date each year (3rd Sunday of the month of November), with that date being November 19 this year. This date conflicts with the requested date Bethania Representatives can be here at Bethel with their program. In addition, this falls also with Stewardship Sunday. Ms. Pierce stated that Robert's rules allow for a meeting to be opened on a specific date, continued and closed on another date, a week-long meeting. This allows for the Bethania Presentation as well as our Stewardship Sunday to be part of the Congregational meeting and can be added into the formal meeting agenda, thereby allowing the Business Portion of the Congregational Meeting to continue the following Sunday and the meeting adjourned on that date. All were in agreeance and the agenda will be developed this way. Congregational Meeting Agenda dates, Opening, November 19th, Closing November 26th, 2017.

2. Bethel Reforming Discussion on Fall Visioning Process

Tom Milburn opened discussion stating that Bethel has reached our first goal of Bethel Becoming and now we need to move on to the next phase, Bethel Reforming. Discussion ensued with all in agreeance that having small cottage style meetings with leaders would be a good way start this phase. Dave Griffin stated he believed that we could use this also as a good way to get our small groups restarted. Discussion of the starting timeframe looks to be October/November so that it can get a good start the first of the new year. Pastor Young suggested that Pat Shields be asked to develop a survey. Council will need to identify leaders for this and Tom Milburn and Pastor Dave will work on identifying leaders. This will be carried over to the September Council meeting for continued discussion.

3. Youth Ministry Intern Policy discussion

Pastor Young informed Council that Brian Jaster has developed a Youth Intern Policy and has identified an intern who is available to fill the position. Tom Milburn stated that he has reviewed the policy and that it looks good.

4. Octoberfest Discussion

Pastor Young opened discussion on our Octoberfest program which is part of our 500th Reformation Program. He stated the date is October 7-8, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He has been in discussion with Ray Meeker on what all we will need for this. They are looking for a DJ and in addition Pastor Young is hoping to set up the largest Chicken Dance ever here in Frederic County, and hoping to put us in the Guinness Book of World Records. Pastor Young stated that he has issued an invitation to the newly elected Bishop, Reverend

Bob Humphrey and is awaiting his availability. Richard Jeric will perform a special piano concert entitled: "Reformation Recital: German Masterworks."

Other

Pastor Young read a thank you note from outgoing Bishop James F. Mauney, thanking Bethel for the beautiful quilt and the wonderful day of golfing.

Closing Prayer

Tom Milburn asked if there were any other items for discussion and as there were none, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Pastor Dave lead Council in closing prayer. Our next Council meeting will be September 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.